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REQUEST**FOR****CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.
See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).

**Application Number** 09/198,376**Filing Date** November 24, 1998**First Named Inventor** Okamoto**Group Art Unit** 3743**Examiner Name** Flanigan, Allen J.**Attorney Docket Number** 01300033aa

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of an RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE Practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.a. Previously submittedi. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed December 5, 2001 onii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed oniii. Other _____b. Enclosedi. Amendment/Replyii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)iv. Other _____**2. Miscellaneous**a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)b. Other _____**3. Fees** The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)iii. Other _____

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b. Check in the amount of \$ 740 enclosedc. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print / Type) Michael E. Whitham Registration No. (Attorney / Agent) 32,635

Signature 

Date March 7, 2002

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

30743

Name (Print / Type) PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Signature _____ Date _____

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.